

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/779,951

Examiner

ANH PHUNG

Applicant(s)

WONG, SAU CHING

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Election received on Jan. 5, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15 and 19-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

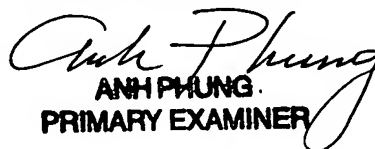
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 2/13/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Search History.


ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The specification has been amended as follows:

Page 1, after "April 4, 2003", insert -- **now U.S. Pat. No. 6,731,539, issued on May 4, 2004, --.**

In the claims:

The non-elected claims **16-18** are cancelled due to elected without traverse.

The examiner's amendment has been made in order to place the application in a condition for allowance.

2. This Office Action is responsive to the Election received on January 5, 2006, the non-elected claims **16-18** are cancelled and elected claims **1-15** and **19-23** are pending in the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the Applicant:

Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed September 17, 2003.

Information disclosed and listed on PTO 1449 was considered.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims **1-15** and **19-23** are allowed.

Wong (U.S. Pat. No. 6,747,896), Wong (U.S. Pat. No. 6,648,422), Lee et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,278,649), Komatsu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,930,195) and Lee et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,923,606) disclose a semiconductor memory device having a plurality of first banks; a plurality of second banks; a plurality of diffused lines and a plurality of metal lines similar to that of the present application, but fail to teach:

“a plurality of second bank select cells connected to respective pairs of the diffused lines, wherein the pairs of diffused lines that correspond to the second bank select cells are offset relative to the pairs of diffused lines that correspond to the first bank select cells; and a plurality of metal lines, each metal line being connected to a corresponding one of the first bank select cells and a corresponding one of the second bank select cells in each bank” as claimed in the independent claim **1**, the dependent claims **2-12** are also allowed; or

“a plurality of second bank select cells connected to respective pairs of the diffused lines, wherein the pairs of diffused lines corresponding to the second bank select cells are offset relative to the pairs of diffused lines corresponding to the first bank select cells; and a plurality of overlying lines, each overlying line being connected to a corresponding one of the first bank select cells and a corresponding one of the second bank select cells in each bank” as claimed in the independent claim **13**, the dependent claims **14-15** are also allowed; or

“a plurality of second bank select cells, each second bank select cell comprising a transistor between a corresponding adjacent pair of the diffused lines and contact to a corresponding one of the metal lines, wherein the adjacent pairs of diffused lines

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corresponding to the second bank select cells are offset relative to the adjacent pairs of diffused lines corresponding to the first bank select cells" as claimed in the independent claim **19**, the dependent claims **20-23** are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **ANH PHUNG** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1883**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **RICHARD ELMS**, can be reached on **(571) 272-1869**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).

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AKP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anh Phung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anh" and last name "Phung" clearly distinguishable.

**ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**